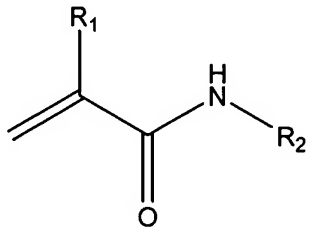
We Claim:

1. An ophthalmic lens comprising the cross-linked product of a first polymer, wherein said first polymer is a radiation-curable (meth)acrylamidoalkyl derivative of an oligomer or polymer containing a plurality of H-active groups, wherein said lens transmits at least 70% of visible light.

2. A lens as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said H-active groups are selected from the group consisting of $-NH_2$ groups and –OH groups.

3. A lens as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said (meth)acrylamidoalkyl derivative is obtained by substituting at least one hydrogen atom in H-active groups of the oligomer or polymer with radicals of a N-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylamide of the structure



wherein R_1 is methyl or –H; R_2 is $-[(CH_2)_x-O-]_y-H$, where x is 1,2, or 3 and y is 1 – 5.

4. A lens as claimed in Claim 3, wherein R_1 is –H, x is 1 or 2, and y is 1 or 2.

5. A lens as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the N-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylamide is selected from the group consisting of N-2-hydroxylethyl acrylamide, N-2-hydroxyethyl methacrylamide, N-methylol acrylamide, and N-methylol methacrylamide.

6. A lens as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said lens has a water content between 40% and 80%

7. A lens as Claimed in Claim 2, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, polysaccharide derivatives, poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(ethylene glycol), poly(propylene oxide), PEG-block-PPO, poly(acrylamide) poly(acrylamide), and copolymers thereof.

8. A lens as Claimed in Claim 7, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides and polysaccharide derivatives.

9. A lens as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of dextran, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, and polysaccharides comprising glucose monosaccharide units.

10. A lens as claimed in Claim 8, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of water-soluble polysaccharides and water-soluble polysaccharide derivatives.

11. A lens as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first polymer is dextran and said N-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylamide is N-methylol acrylamide.

12. A lens as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said first polymer is soluble in water before it is crosslinked, and swellable in water after it is crosslinked.

13. A lens as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising the crosslinked product of a second polymer, wherein said second polymer is a water-soluble crosslinkable polymer.

14. A lens as claimed in Claim 13, wherein said second polymer is nelfilcon A.

15. A lens as claimed in Claim 14, wherein said nelfilcon A is present in the lens in an amount greater than said first polymer.

16. A method for making a contact lens material comprising the steps of:

a) preparing a substantially aqueous solution of a polymer containing a plurality of H-active groups;

b) adding an N-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylamide and a water-soluble polymerization inhibitor to the solution; and

c) adding a water-soluble condensation catalyst to the solution to cause a condensation reaction between the hydroxyl groups of the N-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylamide and the H-active groups of the polymer.

17. A method for making a molding comprising the following steps:

a) preparing a substantially aqueous solution of a first polymer, wherein said first polymer is a radiation-curable (meth)acrylamidoalkyl derivative of an oligomer or polymer containing a plurality of H-active groups;

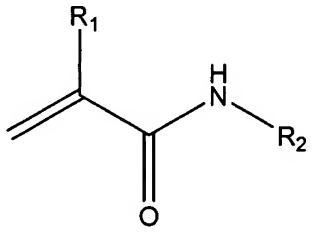
b) introducing the solution obtained into a mold;

c) exposing the polymer to radiation to crosslink the polymer; and

d) opening the mold such that the molding can be removed from the mold.

18. A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said H-active groups are selected from the group consisting of $-NH_2$ groups and –OH groups.

19. A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said (meth)acrylamidoalkyl derivative is obtained by substituting at least one hydrogen atom in H-active groups of the oligomer or polymer with radicals of a N-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylamide of the structure



wherein R_1 is methyl or –H; R_2 is $-[(CH_2)_x-O-]_y-H$, where x is 1,2, or 3 and y is 1 – 5.

20. A method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein R_1 is –H, x is 1, and y is 1.

21. A method as claimed in Claim 20, wherein the N-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylamide is selected from the group consisting of N-2-hydroxylethyl acrylamide, N-2-hydroxyethyl methacrylamide, N-methylol acrylamide, and N-methylol methacrylamide.

22. A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said lens has a water content between 40% and 80%.

23. A method as Claimed in Claim 18, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides, polysaccharide derivatives, poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(ethylene glycol), poly(propylene oxide), PEG-block-PPO, poly(acrylamide) poly(acrylamide), and copolymers thereof.

24. A method as Claimed in Claim 23, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of polysaccharides and polysaccharide derivatives.

25. A method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of dextran, hydroxypropylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose, and polysaccharides comprising glucose monosaccharide units.

26. A method as claimed in Claim 24, wherein said first polymer is selected from the group consisting of water-soluble polysaccharides and water-soluble polysaccharide derivatives.

27. A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said first polymer is dextran and said N-hydroxyalkyl (meth)acrylamide is N-methylol acrylamide.

28. A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said first polymer is soluble in water before it is crosslinked, and swellable in water after it is crosslinked.

29. A method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said solution further comprises second polymer, wherein said second polymer is a water-soluble crosslinkable polymer.

30. A method as claimed in Claim 29, wherein said second polymer is nelfilcon A.

31. A method as claimed in Claim 30, wherein said nelfilcon A is present in the lens in an amount greater than said first polymer.